



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 626

February Session, 2008

Substitute House Bill No. 5823

House of Representatives, April 15, 2008

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION GRANTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-19o of the 2008 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall establish a program to
5 provide grants to youth service bureaus in accordance with this
6 section. Only youth service bureaus which were eligible to receive
7 grants pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, [2007]
8 2008, or which applied for a grant by June 30, [2007] 2008, with prior
9 approval of the town's contribution pursuant to subsection (b) of this
10 section, shall be eligible for a grant pursuant to this section for any
11 fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, [2007] 2008. Each such youth
12 service bureau shall receive a grant of fourteen thousand dollars. The
13 Department of Education may expend an amount not to exceed two
14 per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for
15 administrative expenses. If there are any remaining funds, each such

16 youth service bureau that was awarded a grant in excess of fifteen
17 thousand dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, shall receive a
18 percentage of such funds. The percentage shall be determined as
19 follows: For each such grant in excess of fifteen thousand dollars, the
20 difference between the amount of the grant awarded to the youth
21 service bureau for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, and fifteen
22 thousand dollars shall be divided by the difference between the total
23 amount of the grants awarded to all youth service bureaus that were
24 awarded grants in excess of fifteen thousand dollars for said fiscal year
25 and the product of fifteen thousand dollars and the number of such
26 grants for said fiscal year.

27 Sec. 2. Section 10-262r of the general statutes is repealed and the
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

29 The Department of Education may establish, within available
30 appropriations, a pilot program for the use of technology in providing
31 computer-assisted writing, instruction and testing, in [the ninth and
32 tenth] grades six to twelve, inclusive, in [the] public schools, including
33 the regional vocational-technical schools. The Commissioner of
34 Education, for purposes of the program, may award grants to local and
35 regional boards of education and regional vocational-technical schools
36 for demonstration projects. Boards of education and vocational-
37 technical schools seeking to participate in the pilot program shall
38 apply to the department at such time and in such form as the
39 commissioner prescribes. The commissioner shall select a diverse
40 group of participants based on the population, geographic location and
41 economic characteristics of the school district or school. Local and
42 regional boards of education and regional vocational-technical schools
43 awarded grants under the program may use grant funds for expenses
44 for computer hardware, computer software, professional development,
45 technical consulting assistance and other related activities. The
46 Department of Education may retain up to five per cent of the funds
47 appropriated for purposes of this section for program evaluation,
48 monitoring and technical assistance.

49 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established an Even
 50 Start Family Literacy Program. Under the program, the Department of
 51 Education may, within available appropriations, provide grants to
 52 assist new or existing local programs conforming with the federal
 53 William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program pursuant to
 54 P.L. 107-110, to expand local family literacy services for children and
 55 their parents or guardians.

56 (b) Applicants for grants provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this
 57 section shall apply annually to the Commissioner of Education at such
 58 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. In
 59 determining whether to award an applicant a grant for the Even Start
 60 Family Literacy Program, the commissioner shall consider, at a
 61 minimum, the following factors: (1) The specific objectives and
 62 description of the applicant's proposed program, (2) the cost of the
 63 applicant's proposed program, (3) the number of children and their
 64 parents or guardians who may benefit from the applicant's proposed
 65 program, (4) progress in achieving indicators of the applicant's
 66 program quality, and (5) whether the applicant's proposed program is
 67 likely to increase the literacy levels of children and their parents or
 68 guardians receiving services under such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-19o(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-262r
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	728,000	28,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	728,000	28,000

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of \$728,000 to the State Department of Education. It provides for the anticipated application of two new youth service bureaus (YSB) at a total cost of \$28,000 and for \$700,000 in grants for Even Start Literacy Programs in FY 09. Both these grant changes are included in sHB 5021, AAC The State Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 2009, and Making Appropriations Thereof, as passed by the Appropriations Committee. Evenstart grant recipients are anticipated to be Windham, Danbury, Middletown, New London, Stamford and Ansonia.

The increase in the number of YSBs is an ongoing cost to the state as each new YSB is statutorily provided \$14,000 per year. The Evenstart grant program is discretionary in nature and future fiscal impact is dependent on future appropriations.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject with regard to YSBs. Any fiscal impact connected to the Evenstart program is subject to future appropriations.

OLR Bill Analysis4/15/2008 11:09 AM

sHB 5823

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION GRANTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill:

1. increases the number of youth service bureaus (YSBs) eligible for state grants,
2. expands an existing technology pilot grant program for 9th and 10th graders to include public school students in all middle and high school grades and allocates a share of the program appropriation for State Department of Education (SDE) administrative costs, and
3. establishes a state Even Start Family Literacy Program to provide grants to expand local family literacy services for children and their parents and guardians.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS

The bill increases the number of YSBs eligible for SDE grants. It does so by making any YSB eligible for state grants starting in FY 09 if it (1) was eligible for a grant in FY 08, rather than in FY 07 or (2) applied for a grant by June 30, 2008, rather than by June 30, 2007, after receiving approval for its town's matching contribution. The grants are \$14,000 each, with any excess funds distributed among YSBs that received grants of more than \$15,000 in FY 95.

TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM

Current law allows the SDE, within available appropriations, to

establish a pilot program to use technology in providing computer-assisted writing, instruction, and testing for 9th and 10th grade public school students. The bill expands the program to cover students in grades six to 12. It also allows SDE to use up to 5% of the program's appropriation for program evaluation, monitoring, and technical assistance.

By law, grants go to boards of education and regional vocational-technical schools for demonstration projects. Grant funds may be used for computer hardware and software, professional development, technical consulting assistance, and other related activities. The commissioner must select a diverse group of pilot program participants based on population, geographic location, and school or district economic characteristics.

EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

The bill establishes a state program to provide grants, within available appropriations, to expand local family literacy services to children and their parents or guardians. New or existing programs that comply with federal Even Start program requirements (see BACKGROUND) are eligible to apply to the education commissioner for grants. The commissioner must award grants based on the following minimum criteria:

1. a program description and specific program objectives,
2. program cost,
3. number of children and parents or guardians who might benefit,
4. progress in meeting program quality indicators, and
5. whether the proposed program is likely to increase literacy levels of those receiving services.

BACKGROUND

Youth Service Bureaus

YSBs are community-based organizations formed by one or more

towns and run either by the towns or private agencies designated to act as their agent. By law, they are responsible for evaluating, planning, coordinating, implementing, and identifying gaps in youth services, including prevention and intervention programs for predelinquent, delinquent, pregnant, parenting, and troubled youth. Youths up to age 18 may seek services on their own or be referred by schools, police, juvenile and adult courts, and parents.

Federal Even Start Program

The federal program offers grants to support local family literacy projects that integrate early childhood education, adult literacy (adult basic and secondary-level education and instruction for English language learners), parenting education, and interactive parent and child literacy activities for low-income families with parents and their children from birth through age 7. Teen parents and their children from birth through age 7 also are eligible. All participating families must be those most in need of program services.

Federal grants go to the state education agencies, which must then make competitive subgrants to partnerships of local education agencies and nonprofit community-based organizations.

COMMITTEE ACTION**Education Committee**

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/17/2008)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 52 Nay 0 (03/28/2008)